

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 AF-10 EA-12
EUR-12 NEA-11 FDRE-00 SP-02 ICA-20 AID-05 NSC-05
TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02
PA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00
XMB-04 (ISO) W

-----085802 152211Z /53

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS MEXICO 09875

E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, WFC, UN, MX
SUBJECT: FOURTH WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

1. IN THE LAST THREE HALF DAYS OF THE MINISTERIAL SESSION, THE PLENARY WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A DRAFTING GROUP WHICH CONSIDERED THE FINAL DECLARATION DUBBED QUOTE THE MEXICO DECLARATION END QUOTE LINE BY LINE. IN ADDITION, WORKING GROUP SEPARATELY CONSIDERED THE MOST CONTENTIONS ISSUES, INCLUDING TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND A NUMBER OF PERIPHERAL PARAGRAPHS INCLUDING ONE ON INPUTS, FERTILIZER AND SEED INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT. THE RESULT OF THIS EXERCISE IS A LENGTHY AND LARGELY INNOCUOUS DOCUMENT WHICH REPRODUCES MOST OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MANILA COMMUNIQUE OR DECISIONS ALREADY EFFECTED BY OTHER BODIES. FULL TEXT OF THE AGREED DECLARATION WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS SOON AS ISSUED BY THE SECRETARIAT.

2. THE ONLY MAJOR NEW IDEAS INCORPORATED IN THE MEXICO DECLARATION ARE REVISED VERSIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSALS FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERATION OF OBSTACLES TO
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INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND FORMULATION OF NATIONAL FOOD PLANS. THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONSIDERATION OF OBSTACLES TO INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION ARE GENERAL, ASKING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES TO REVIEW THIS QUESTION IN EXISTING FORA, AND REPORT TO THE WFC SECRETARIAT SO IT CAN DEVELOP SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR PRESENTA-

TION TO THE WFC FIFTH SESSION. ON FOOD PLANS, THE RECOMMENDATIONS REQUEST THE WFC WHEN ASKED BY INTERESTED FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES, TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION WITH DONOR COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES IN FORMULATING FOOD PLANS AND SEEKING WAYS TO SUPPORT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS CONSISTENT WITH SUCH PLANS.

3. IN A MEETING HELD AT MIDDAY ON WEDNESDAY AND LIMITED TO MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATIONS MEMBERS EXPRESSED DISATISFACTION WITH HAVING TO WASTE THEIR TIME ON SEMANTICS, AND NOT HAVING OPPORTUNITY FOR DEBATE OF THE ISSUES. THIS GROUP ALSO FELT (1) THAT EITHER NO PREPARATORY MEETING SHOULD BE HELD, OR THAT THE PURPOSE OF SUCH A MEETING SHOULD ONLY BE TO BRIEF GOVERNMENTS ON PLANS FOR THE MINISTERIAL, AND NOT TO REACH DECISIONS OR PREPARE TEXTS; (2) THAT THERE IS NO REAL NEED FOR A FULLY AGREED TEXT FROM THE MINISTERIAL, SINCE IN MANY CASES IT WOULD BE CLEARER TO RECORD VARYING VIEWPOINTS; (3) THAT INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES SUCH AS THE IBRD, IFAD, WFP AND FAO PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN WFC MEETINGS; (4) THAT FUTURE AGENDAS BE COMPOSED OF A GENERAL REVIEW AND DIAGNOSIS, WITH TWO OR THREE ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION AND (5) THAT ISSUES SELECTED FOR IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION SHOULD NOT BE REPEATED IN SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS. THESE VIEWS SUBSEQUENTLY WERE CONVEYED TO THE PLENARY BY THE PRESIDENT BUT SEEMED TO HAVE LITTLE EFFECT AS PLENARY LABORIOUSLY UNCLASSIFIED

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PROCEEDED ON DRAFT DECLARATION.

4. HOSTSHIP OF 1979 5TH WFC SESSION WAS OFFERED BY CANADA FOLLOWING SEVERAL DAYS DISCUSSION BETWEEN NIGERIA, THE U. S. AND CANADA. NIGERIAN MINISTER SPOKE PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY OF DESIRE TO HOST COUNCIL AT SOME FUTURE DATE BUT FRANKLY ADMITTED THAT GIVEN CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR NIGERIA TO GIVE SUPPORT IN 1979 WHICH COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE. CANADIAN OFFER GREW OUT OF U. S. CONCERN THAT U. S. HOSTSHIP OFFER MIGHT REFLECT UNFAVORABLY ON WILLIAMS CANDIDACY FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF CANADIAN OFFER. CHAIR MERELY ACCEPTED IT WITH THANKS AND SAID BUREAU AND SECRETARIAT WOULD LOOK INTO OFFER AND DECIDE. CHAIR EXPRESSED VIEW 1979 PREP COM SHOULD BE IN ROME, SEPARATED BY AT LEAST SEVERAL WEEKS FROM MINISTERIAL SESSION WHICH NO DOUBT WILL BE AT SOME YET UNDISCLOSED SITE IN CANADA. MINISTER WHELAN SPOKE OF MEETING IN AN QUOTE AGRICULTURAL SETTING END QUOTE.

5. MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:26 AM THURSDAY JUNE 15. AS IMPLIED ABOVE, FINAL TEXT DECLARATION, WHILE LENGTHY

AND SOMEWHAT ALL ENCOMPASSING, IS ACCEPTABLE FROM U. S.
STANDPOINT. LUCEY

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